

Administrative Memo

Date: June 9, 2022
To: School Administrators
From: Kari Monsees, Deputy Commissioner, Division of Financial & Administrative Services
Subject: FAS-22-005 — Teacher Baseline Salary Grant

The Fiscal Year 2023 (FY 23) budget includes \$21.8 million for a new Teacher Baseline Salary Grant program designed to increase teacher salaries in many local education agencies (LEAs) across the state. Governor Mike Parson recommended this budget item and the General Assembly approved the funds as a first step toward addressing teacher pay in Missouri, which ranks among the lowest states in the nation for baseline teacher salaries.

Qualifying LEAs can apply for grant funds to boost their teacher salary levels to a baseline amount of \$38,000. LEAs that currently employ teachers making between \$25,000 and \$38,000 per full-time equivalent (FTE) are eligible to apply. This grant program could impact an estimated 12 percent of teachers statewide.

Under this grant opportunity, up to 70 percent of the additional funds to increase teacher salary levels to \$38,000 would come from state grant funds. The remaining 30 percent and related benefit costs would come from local sources. A preliminary [Teacher Baseline Salary Grant guidance document](#) is provided in preparation for a rapid application process to support the required implementation timeline. Applications for the grant are due on Friday, July 15, 2022.

This is an optional grant program. LEAs with regular salaries below \$38,000 are not required to participate. The state minimum salary requirements in [Section 163.172, RSMo](#) have not changed because of this grant program. This grant program is subject to appropriation and requires the Governor's final approval of the FY 23 budget.

A webinar is scheduled for Monday, June 13 at 1:30 p.m. to provide general information, review the guidance material, and answer questions regarding the grant program. School leaders can access the webinar at [Livestream.com/MoDESE/salary](https://livestream.com/MoDESE/salary). The webinar will be recorded; a link will be posted in the Teacher Baseline Salary Grant section of [DESE's Recruitment and Retention webpage](#) and shared in the DESE Update.

For general information about the grant program, please contact Paul Katnik, Assistant Commissioner, Office of Educator Quality, at 573-751-2931 or paul.katnik@dese.mo.gov.

For specific questions about the application process, MOSIS/Core Data reporting, or financial coding, please review the [guidance document](#) for the appropriate contact person.